

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 5-17 and 19 are rejected. Claims 18 and 20 are allowed. Claim 4 is objected to.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's remarks regarding the Information Disclosure Statement dated December 29, 2003.

Specification

Applicants have made the corrections to the specification suggested by the Examiner in order to remove any informalities noted by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that in the present Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 18 and 20 are allowed. In addition, Applicants note with appreciation that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the Examiner's remarks regarding the allowability of the subject matter of claim 4, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, the laminate of claim 1 now clearly specifies the order of the layers of the laminate.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In view of Applicants' amendment of claim 1, which is discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19 has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Citation of Interest

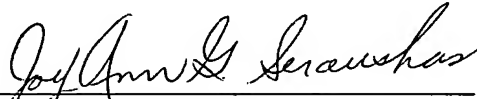
Applicants note the Examiner's remarks regarding Edwards et al. (US2002/0034622A1).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Examiner to telephone Applicants' agent so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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